(*b*) The cess cannot be levied compulsorily. Whenever the raiyats agree to pay the cess, Government have no objection to undertake the maintenance of the tank.

SUBJECT No. 116.

Distribution of water in tanks to be entrusted to the Irrigation department.

Mr. Ramanuja Iyengar, Gubbi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Owing to repeated failure of rains and the scanty dry crops famines are on the increase. Even when tanks fill there is no adequate outturn of wet crops. The raiyats in America have far advanced in the principles of preserving water in their reservoirs for use in time of scarcity. In the Punjab and Chenaub the Irrigation department distributes water equitably. It may be ascertained what the yield there is for one cubic foot of water supplied, and that would show the benefit of entrusting the equitable distribution of water to the Irrigation department. It would be more profitable both to the people and Government if the same is entrusted to the Department of Public Works, (Irrigation department), than to the ignorant *nirgantis*. The raiyats under some of the tanks are willing to pay the acreage cess and it is prayed that early orders may be passed in the matter.

Mr. Amblé Annaiya Pandit.—A nala manegar should not be entrusted with the work of distributing water. This should be done either by the Public Works Department or left to the raiyats themselves.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 117.

Removal of silt of the malnad tanks.

Mr. Yagayyana Krishnappa, Sagar taluk.

Summary of discussion.—It is prayed that the work of removing the silt of malnad tanks may be undertaken by Government early, as large deposits of silt are annually received in the tanks which the raiyats are unable to remove. The attempts made in a few places by the raiyats to remove the accumulated silt to set free the underground springs have been successful. But owing to sparse population the entire work cannot be undertaken by the raiyats. Mere improvement of the tank bund will not be of much use unless the silt is periodically removed.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.—The closing of the springs is due to the silt being washed down. This should be prevented.

Reply of Government.—The Superintending Engineer is investigating the question and the cases of tanks to which the representation refers may be brought to his notice.

SUBJECT No. 118.

Conservation of tank water.

Mr. Huchveeregowda, Gubbi taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Lands situated at a distance of even 3 or 4 miles from the sluices of tanks, such as Amrut Mahal kaval lands and lands of villages other than those in which the tank is situated, have been taken up for cultivation. Though these lands are assessed at low rates, even in years when the tanks fill, the entire atchkat cannot be irrigated, but water is granted to these remote